Extension of Employment Guarantee Scheme

1765. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Employment Guarantee Scheme 100 more districts and if so, the criteria adopted for the selection of a district and how many persons will be benefited from extension of the scheme;

(b) whether cases of large sale irregularities in paying money to persons selected for jobs under the scheme have come to the notice of Government, if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter; and

(c) the details of measures taken to ensure that ineligible persons do not get benefits under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir. 130 more districts are proposed to be covered under NREGA. Additional districts have been identified on the following criteria:

(i) 50 districts from the list of BRGF districts.

(ii) 15 additional districts with incidence of farmers' suicide.

(iii) 5 additional districts that were bifurcated and created with the district with the original name already included in NFFWP/RSVY/BRGF. The newly created districts with new names which were left out of these programmes are now included.

(iv) 34 districts have been selected from the Planning Commission Ranking of Backwardness used for identifying NFFWP districts, viz. SC/ST population, inverse of agricultural productivity, and inverse of agricultural wages.

(v) In order to make an equitable distribution, at least two districts in addition have been selected from each special category State as well as from States whose minimum number is not covered in item (i) to (iv) above. This covers 22 districts.

(vi) 4 districts have been taken up as Learning Impact Districts.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Necessary provisions have been made in the Act itself by providing for monitoring of the Act at each level and also for Social Audit at Gram Sabha level. NREGA guidelines also provide for constitution of local vigilance and monitoring committee of the beneficiaries. States have been requested to ensure compliance with provisions of Act and operational guidelines.

Drinking water facility in rural school

1766. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rural schools in India and how many of them are without drinking water facilities, State-wise;

(b) what is the policy to provide drinking water facilities to rural schools;

(c) whether any targets for providing drinking water facilities to rural schools were fixed and if so, the achievements made therein; and

(d) the reasons for not achieving the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per the information made available by the State/UTs Government, there are 8.45 lakh rural schools in India. As on 1.4.2006 there were 1.32 lakhs rural schools not having drinking water facilities. The State-wise details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Water is a State subject and State Governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water to the rural areas. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, financial assistance and technical support is rendered to the State Governments through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Progamme (ARWSP) under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM). There are no separate funds earmarked for school coverage, however, the States are expected to give priority to coverage of rural schools for drinking water from funds available under ARWSP and other programmes. The States are competent to plan and sanction the same at their level. It was envisaged to cover all the schools during the Tenth Plan period by dovetailing funds under various programmes of Centre and State.